



Partner Notes

From the Office of Community Partnerships in
the District of Columbia Public Schools



News on partnerships, volunteerism, donations and events in DC Public Schools

March 2009

March is Music in Our Schools Month!

Have you been tapping your feet or snapping your fingers a bit more this month? It could be because March is Music in our Schools Month and the music is all around us!

DCPS students have more music instructors than they have had in the past, and they benefit from robust partnerships with some of the city's premiere music organizations. We hope that during the month of March or even April, May or June that you have a chance to enjoy some music with our students. I really enjoyed the Capitol Jazz Kids with Wynton Marsalis at the Kennedy Center, and the Brent ES choir at the EW! annual gala, they were great!

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Partner Notes, from our Partner Spotlight to a review of partners' work last month and a preview of the events to come.

Shereen Williams
Director, DCPS Office of Community Partnerships

Partner Spotlight

The Recording Academy, Washington DC Chapter

In January 1998, The Recording Academy launched its branch office in Washington, DC, and it quickly became the fastest growing branch in the Recording Academy's history. Just two years after its opening, the branch quickly attained Chapter status during a special reception at the U.S. Capitol.

Embracing the vibrant music communities of Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, the Chapter's membership continues to grow annually and is comprised of the area's prominent musical artists and industry professionals.

The Washington DC Chapter provides a number of valuable experiences to DC Public Schools students. Every year DC high school students are invited to Grammy Career Day, where they learn about the music business and some of the behind the-scenes careers in the music industry. They are also invited to listening sessions when artists are in town and the DC Chapter awards music education grants to local schools and community groups that advance music education.

Shannon Emamali is the Executive Director of the DC Chapter of the [Recording Academy](#).

Events



GRAMMY Career Day

March 6, 2009

Presented by The Recording Academy, the organization that presents the annual GRAMMY Awards, the day-long event was hosted for the second consecutive year at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, DC.

This year's GRAMMY Career Day provided first-hand knowledge of the music world through panels featuring top industry professionals representing a variety of music careers in front of and behind the scenes.

Supported by The Gibson Foundation and BET Networks, students participated in interactive

workshops that exposed them to producers, performers, conductors, art designers, instrumentalists, managers, record engineers, business executives, spoken word artists, music educators, television producers and songwriters.

Music industry experts shared with the students and provided insight into ways in which today's young musicians can maximize their talents through the various facets of a redefined music industry.

Mini Medical School Event at Lafayette ES

March 2, 2009



On March 2, osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) and members of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) set up a Mini-Medical School at Lafayette Elementary School to teach young children about the importance of preventive medicine.

From learning about building strong bones to identifying organs in the body, students engaged in fun, educational activities that taught them the principles of living a healthy life. Activities included placing Velcro organ parts on an anatomy apron, finding a heartbeat, and handling medical equipment such as the stethoscope. Each student was given a certificate and a workbook after completing the six stations of the Mini-Medical School.

The children were particularly excited about looking at a skeleton and small x-ray viewer where they could see their bones.

"These were nice doctors," one of the children said "Because they didn't come with any shots to give."

"Everyone was excited about getting a pedometer so they could start to measure how many steps they walk each day in school." -Lynn Main, Principal, Lafayette ES

Other events:

- **March 2nd - American Osteopathic Association Mini Medical School Event at Lafayette ES**
- **March 11th- Brent ES Choir performed at the Everybody Wins! Gala**



- **March 11th - Colin Powell visited McFarland MS**
- **March 11th - Everybody Wins Gala. Blake Snyder from Tyler ES introduced and read a book with General Colin Powell. James Guerrero also from Tyler ES presented the Mentor of the Year award to his reading mentor John Fish, from Reynolds American Inc.**



- March 16th - Capitol Jazz Kids on the Millennium Stage at Lincoln Center opening for Wynton Marsalis.
- March 16th - The Washington Performing Arts Society presents “Let Freedom Sing” an opera based on the life of Marian Anderson at Emery ES and Coolidge HS.
- March 16th- Street Law’s “Breakfast With The Legends” series brings Judge Reggie Walton of the US District Court of Appeals to J.O. Wilson ES
- March 17th - Street Law’s “Breakfast With The Legends” series brings Judge Eugene Hamilton of the DC Superior Court to Seaton ES
- March 17th - Wynton Marsalis Jazz for Young People Concert at Hardy MS



- March 17th - The Washington Performing Arts Society presents “Let Freedom Sing” an opera based on the life of Marian Anderson at Stuart Hobson MS and Roosevelt HS
- March 17th - Street Law’s “Breakfast With The Legends” series brings Judge (former FBI Director)William Sessions, and Stuart Gerson, senior counsel, Epstein Becker & Green to Whittier ES
- March 18th - Speaker Series at the Youth Engagement Academy
- March 18th - Education Secretary Arne Duncan read to students at Amidon-Bowen ES
- March 18th - Street Law’s “Breakfast With The Legends” series brings Ed O’Brien, Street

Law's Executive Director Emeritus, and Avis Buchanan, The Public Defender Service Executive Director, to Whittier ES

- March 19th- Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Lloyd Hand, Senior Counsel, King & Spalding to Whittier ES
- March 19th- Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Ward 3 Councilwoman Mary Cheh and Chief Judge Lee Satterfield of the DC Superior Court to Emery ES
- March 19th Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Judge Emmitt Sullivan of the U.S. District Court of Appeals to Bruce-Monroe @Park View ES
- March 20th Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Judge Eric Washington, Chief Judge for the DC Court of Appeals to Tyler ES
- March 20th -The Washington Performing Arts Society presents "Let Freedom Sing" an opera based on the life of Marian Anderson at Patterson ES and Jefferson MS
- March 20th – Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Linda Singer a partner at Zuckerman Spaeder and Paul Clement a partner at King & Spalding and former U.S. solicitor general to Whittier ES
- March 20th Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Judge Karen Howze of the DC Superior Court to Emery ES
- March 20th Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series brings Judge Ricardo Urbina of the U.S. District Court of Appeals to J.O. Wilson ES

Upcoming Events

- March 23rd - DCPS Spring Vacation begins for students and teachers
- March 23rd - 24th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards at the Kennedy Center with a performance by Raheem DeV Vaughn
- March 30th - Reading Across Continents Digital Video Conference/Global Author Talk , students from DCPS and Ghana and Nigeria discuss Copper Sun with the book's author, Sharon Draper
- March 30th - Street Law's "Breakfast With The Legends" series, brings Judge Vanessa Hall and Ward 7 Councilwoman Yvette Alexander to Nalle ES
- March 31st – The Gospel Music Channel is at Hart MS with Robert Randolph and the Family Band
- April 1st – Cable Cares Service Day at Truesdell ES
- April 6th to 8th- Young Playwright's Theater "New Play Festival" at the Gala Hispanic Theater. Performances of plays written by DC public school students.

Donations

National Cable & Telecommunications Association Cable Cares

The National Cable & Telecommunications Association is holding its annual convention in the Nation's Capital (April 1-3) for the first time since 1971. The cable industry's outreach initiative has picked the D.C. public schools as the beneficiary of its donated time, talents and financial support. The group's members are donating a number of items to Hart MS and volunteers will create a media center and mural projects at Truesdell ES.

Many individuals and organizations make cash and in-kind donations to our schools throughout the year. If you would like to make a donation, contact our office by emailing dcpspartnerships@dc.gov.

We greatly appreciate all types of support. However, used items, especially technology-related items, will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Wish List

1,000 Books for Your School

Heart of America is accepting nominations for their "Principal of the Year" to be awarded at their Sweet Charity Event on May 11th. The winning principal will receive an award and 1,000 books for their school's library. Any DCPS principal with students in grades K-8 is eligible. Please contact our office for more information or to nominate a principal.

GRAMMY Music Education Grant Program

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Recording Academy has a Music Education Grant Program to support the advancement of music education in local schools and communities in the Washington, D.C. area. Grants range from \$1,000- \$2,500 and the submission deadline is April 30th. Follow this link to apply: www.grammy.com

Lighten Up Campaign Obesity Kits

Children's National Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente and 9 News Now are teaming up to provide helpful information, tools, and tips for assessing, preventing and overcoming childhood obesity. They have kits for families and online resources for students at: <http://www.wusa9.com/lightenup/>

Thank you very much...

1. Booz Allen Hamilton Recruiting Services Team and Neediest Kids – supplies for students at Hart MS
2. Recording Academy – Grammy Career Day
3. Kristen Verderame- Female speaker series for the Youth Engagement Academy
4. WPAS – Capitol Jazz Program and Concerts

Volunteer

[Visit Us Online!](#) Volunteers and school staff can sign up on our website. Volunteers can sign in to receive bi-weekly emails of volunteer opportunities at DCPS. School staff can post their volunteer needs.

Sign up to learn about volunteer opportunities in DCPS!

Look Who's Volunteering



American University

Students from American University are volunteering in DC Public Schools during their Alternative Spring Break. They will assist teachers and students at Hart MS, Janney ES, Brookland @ Bunker Hill EC, Drew ES, and Anacostia SHS. They also had a Q&A session with Chancellor Rhee in her office.

Howard University

Students from Howard University are volunteering in DC Public Schools during their Alternative Spring Break. They will assist teachers and students at Savoy ES, Tubman ES, and Malcolm X ES.



Hands on DC

On Saturday, March 7th, over 75 Hands on DC volunteers, led by a team of talented artists, took their talents and hard work into five DC public schools to create some amazing murals. Volunteers visited Cardozo Senior High School, Maury Elementary, Noyes Elementary, Hendley Elementary, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary.

With the help of our mural coordinators, volunteers brought some much needed color and imagination to the walls of each school. Mural themes included famous historical figures, the alphabet, music and musicians, landscapes, neighborhoods, and playtime.

[View additional pictures of murals.](#)

Attorney General's Office - Robert Hildum and other staff from the Office of the Attorney General deliver internet safety presentations to DCPS staff, students and parents.

Please feel free to contact the Volunteer Program at 202-442-5447 or email dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov.

Send Us Your Story

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District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Community Partnerships
825 North Capitol Street NE, 9th floor
Washington, DC 20002
202-442-5885
dcpspartnerships@dc.gov

Shereen Williams, Director
Luisa Paningbatan, Project Assistant